



2020  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Turn off the Darkness*

## THE BEAUTY OF THE SAVIOR

*John 1: 1-5; 14*

### SERMON SUMMARY...

For many, we cognitively know about Jesus. If quizzed, many of us could write down a biblically literate answer about the person of Jesus and His characteristics and ministry. But, when you simply look at Jesus, what do you see? This message seeks to reveal the beauty of the Savior. Like brushstrokes on a canvas, John 1 is a portrait of Jesus' beauty. That is, John wants us to see that Jesus is ***Eternal***, Jesus is the ***Creator***, Jesus is the ***Light***, and Jesus is ***With***. These four qualities ought to collide in our hearts and define what true beauty really is.

### KEEP IN MIND...

The wording of 'Beauty' in describing Jesus seems out of place for most people, maybe even odd. We often default to describe Jesus by His attributes or actions. Therefore, this week be prepared to get underneath the language. That is, guide the discussion to the emotions that Jesus draws out. Dig for the responses to Jesus. But, be patient with your GROUP! This study may create new categories and paradigms for your GROUP members. Be prepared to follow up with people who may be struggling to recognize these foundational truths.

### CONNECT...

*Ice-breaker options:* What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen?

When you look at Jesus, what do you see, how would you describe him? Have you ever thought about Jesus being beautiful?

### LEARN...BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS...

1. Read **John 1: 1-2**. What does this say about Jesus being eternal? Why is this important? Why does John call Jesus the "Word?" Where else in the Bible do we see God revealing Himself by His words?

2. Read **John 1:3**... What does this tell us about Jesus's role in Creation? Read **Colossians 1:16-17**... What does it mean that Jesus "holds all things together"? How is the Christian 'version' of Jesus different from all the other religions and ideologies' versions of Jesus? How do these truths – that Jesus not only created all things but also holds or sustains all things – make you feel? For instance, does it bring you hope or peace, or is it hard to comprehend?
3. Read **John 1: 4-5**, as well as **John 8: 12** and **1 John 1: 5-10**... What do we learn about the interaction of light and darkness? What does it look like, practically, to "walk in the light"? How does the fact that Jesus is the Light give you confidence in this present darkness?
4. Read **John 1:14**... How does "God with us" fit into the Biblical Story? Read **Revelation 21:3**... What can we learn about the importance of God's presence with His people as we look towards eternity?

### **ACT...**

Considering all that you learned about Jesus being eternal, creator, light, and with us, in what ways do these things help you see Jesus as beautiful? Are there aspects of His beauty that are hard for you to grasp? Invite people to talk to you about this more, and pray for understanding at both a head and heart level.

What could you do this week to be more aware of and see Jesus's beauty a little more clearly?

Remember – last week you may have asked people to share "Who is your ONE?", that is, the person they pray will see the light of Jesus. Check in and continue to pray for these people! Ask if there is anything practical the GROUP could do to encourage further conversation, serving, or interactions? How can you help other people see the beauty of Jesus?

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING at GENESIS...**

For ALL to Know... over the remaining four weeks of Advent, we will study and reflect upon Isaiah 9:6.

Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – Worship Gathering will be VIRTUAL. Scripture is from Isaiah 9:6, focusing on the name "Wonderful Counselor"

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Family Worship Service (3:30 – 4:30 pm)

### **Events for YOU...**

Sunday, November 22 – Virtual Check-In Meeting for GROUP LEADERS (7:30 via [zoom](#); password GROUPS)

Sunday, December 6 – [CHAPTER 3](#) (12 – 2:00 pm) ~ ALL GROUP LEADERS expected to join virtually

Sunday, December 13 - Virtual Check-In Meeting for GROUP LEADERS (7:30 via zoom)